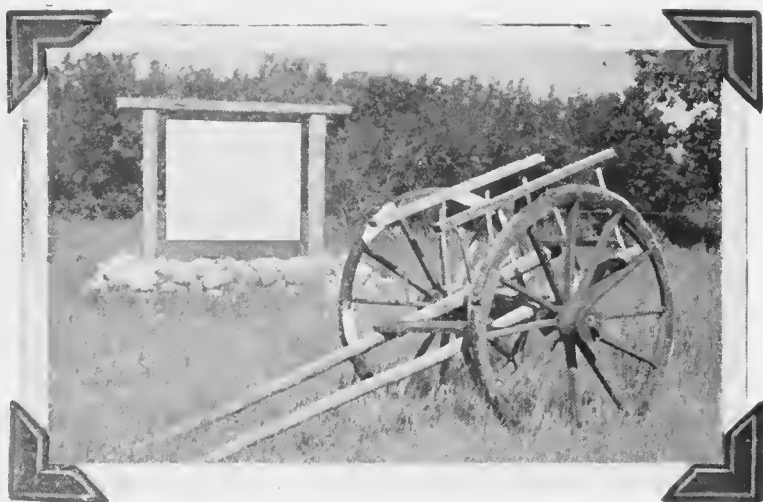


M O R D E N

**Tourist's
Guide**





Fort Pinancewaywining Historic Site. (East shore of lake.)

Fort Pinancewaywining Historic Site

During the winter of 1801-1802, Alexander Henry Jr., superintendent of the Northwest Fur Company with headquarters at Fort Pembina, instructed his men to build a "new kind of cart", to be used on the trails leading to branch posts that were being established in all directions from his main fort at Pembina. A number of these carts were ordered to go to "Pinancewaywining".

In September 1802, they arrived at Fort Pinancewaywining and were the first "Red River Carts" to be used in Manitoba. Later thousands of them were to be used all over the west.



The La Verendrye National Historic and Wayside Park is on this highway, 11 miles west of Morden.

Along the La Verendrye Trail

At the edge of the Pembina Hills in south-central Manitoba — 13 miles north of the International Boundary and 73 miles southwest of Winnipeg — lies Morden.

The town is noted on various accounts: as a focal point of southern Manitoba's earlier history; as the centre of "the Corn and Apple Belt"—a tribute to its fertile soil and long growing season; as the site of one of the few bentonite mines in North America; and as the location of the Morden Experimental Station, one of the beauty spots of the prairies. In recent years, with the damming of Dead Horse Creek and the creation of Lake Minnewasta, the district has offered the attractions of a tourist resort.

Historically speaking, the story of the Morden country extends back to the far-off, unrecorded days when the Pembina Plateau was the domain of the Mound Builders, later the Assiniboinés and Cree Indians. Traces of their existence may still be found — flint arrowheads, stone tomahawks and the ceremonial mounds, where they worshipped and buried their leaders. Eleven miles west of Morden stands the chief of these mounds, Calf Mountain, once called Buffalo Head.

In 1738, the Pembina Hills country was explored by La Verendrye and two of his sons. It is believed that they camped at Calf Mountain, the point where six Indian trails converged, on their way from Fort La Reine, now Portage La Prairie, to Mandan, North Dakota.

Some 60 years later, Alexander Henry Jr., superintendent of posts for the Northwest Trading Company, covered the territory many times. In September, 1802, he built Fort Pinaceawaywining on a site two miles southwest of the present town.

There was a great rush of settlement into the Pembina district in 1877 and '78. It centered about Nelson, eight miles north of Morden. Land values boomed and Nelson lots were rapidly auctioned off in Winnipeg. But the bubble burst, when the new Canadian Pacific Railway by-passed Nelson and went south near Dead Horse Creek. Next came the phenomenon of the town that moved—building by building, via sledges and skids—until Nelson was a ghost town and Morden had been established on the homesteads of the sons of Alvey Morden, one of the original pioneers. The village of Mountain City also moved to Morden.

Today the La Verendrye Trail is the great arterial highway known as No. 3 running southwest from Winnipeg to Morden, it passes west over the beautiful Pembina Valley Hills, past Pelican and Rock Lakes, west near Lake Killarney and on to the Turtle Mountains—undoubtedly the scenic route across Manitoba. No place along its many miles is more worthy of the traveller's attention than Morden.



Flowers at the Dominion Experimental Station

Garden Spot of the Prairies

On a section of land on Morden's eastern outskirts is the Dominion Experimental Station, now in its 40th year. This square mile, planted heavily to garden crops and shrubs, is known across Canada as the federal government's chief effort to assist prairie home-makers and gardeners in the improvement of their home grounds, gardens and parks. Visitors are welcome to inspect its singularly attractive plantations.

Although the main emphasis is on horticulture, a second major concern of the Station is the breeding of sunflowers and feed corn. Experimental work also includes general field crops, Ayrshire cattle and poultry. Two hundred and forty acres are taken up with horticulture, 150 acres with fruit crops. Vegetable crops are extensive. The Station, which is noted for its research, has developed and introduced for

public use many new varieties. These range from plum to wheat.

Guides are supplied to groups and individuals who request them in advance of their tour. Of special interest to visitors are the greenhouses, perennial borders and hedges, the rose garden, pergola for vines, pool and arboretum.

Visitors are welcome every day of the year during daylight hours, while picnic groves, washrooms and parking areas have been provided for their use.

Lake Minnewasta and Colert Beach

On the south-west edge of Morden is Lake Minnewasta, which lies in a coulee cutting through the Pembina Hills. This pretty body of water, shaped like the letter "L", was created in 1911 by the construction of the Morden Dam. Lake Minnewasta Sioux for "good water"—provides the main water supply of the town.



Sunday Afternoon at Colert Beach



Lake Minnewasta

Two years ago, when the lake was brimmed full as a result of heavy rains, public-spirited citizens established Colert Beach. This four-acre bay—complete with sand, pier, diving tower and facilities for water skiing, ski jump, surf board riding and boating—has become a leading tourist attraction. Bass fishing commences July 1.

Visitors may relax in the shade of the oaks which fringe the lake and enjoy one of southern Manitoba's most striking panoramas. For the added convenience of tourists, clean, modern wash rooms and a concession booth have been provided.



The Tourist Park

Morden provides the ideal site for a family picnic — and a fine course where the golf enthusiast may develop his game.



The Golf Course

Five Parks Await the Visitor

There are five parks in and about Morden. They include: the Tourist Park along Dead Horse Creek; the C. C. Milne Park at the west end of Stephen Street; Lake Minnewasta Park at the historical site of old Fort Pincewaywining; the La Verendrye Park some 11 miles out of town on the La Verendrye Trail; and the Playgrounds Park.

Centre of attraction in the Tourist Park is the kiddies' playground, developed and maintained by the Kinsmen Club of Morden. Here is found playground equipment for children of all ages: swings, slides, sand boxes, a merry-go-round and baseball diamond. More than 20 acres of ground, well shaded by elms, ash and maples, provides an ideal picnic spot. Tables and benches, drinking fountains and a water supply for picnickers are additional conveniences.

Sports in the Morden District

On the lower slope of the Pembina Hills is located a nine hole, 24-acre golf course, which gives many the chance to try their skill and develop their game.

Organized baseball, meanwhile, includes senior and junior teams and games are well-attended throughout the season. For those interested in the aquatic sports, Lake Minnewasta provides an excellent water playground.

During the winter months, mens', womens' and school curling clubs flourish, while the two local bonspiels are well-attended events. Hockey is played by the senior, junior and peewee teams. Skating also attracts considerable interest. For skiers, there are inviting hills and slopes near Lake Minnewasta.

From the point of view of sports, Morden has much to attract the visitor.

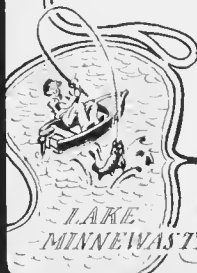
CAN. PAC. R.R.
DRIVE-IN THEATRE



P.T.H. No 3

$1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to
COLERT BEACH and
GAME & FISH BOAT PIER

FISHING
BOATING
SWIMMING
WATER SKIING
PICNIC AREA
BATH HOUSES
SHOWERS
TOILETS
FOOD BARS



LAKE
MINNEWASTAH

+ HISTORIC SITE

CREEK

TOWN OF

TOURIST PARK
AND KIDDIS
PLAYGROUND

ALYMER
PACKING PLANT
PEAS
BEANS
CORN
CARROTS
TOMATOES



GOLF
COURSE



HORTON

TURTLE
MOUNTAIN
FOREST
RESERVE

INTERNATIONAL
PEACE GARDEN

KELVIN

ST. JOHN

LENA

KILLARNEY

ROLLA

BELCOURT

HANSBORO

CLEARWATER

LA RIVIERE

PILOT
MOUND

CRYSTAL
CITY

MANITOULIN

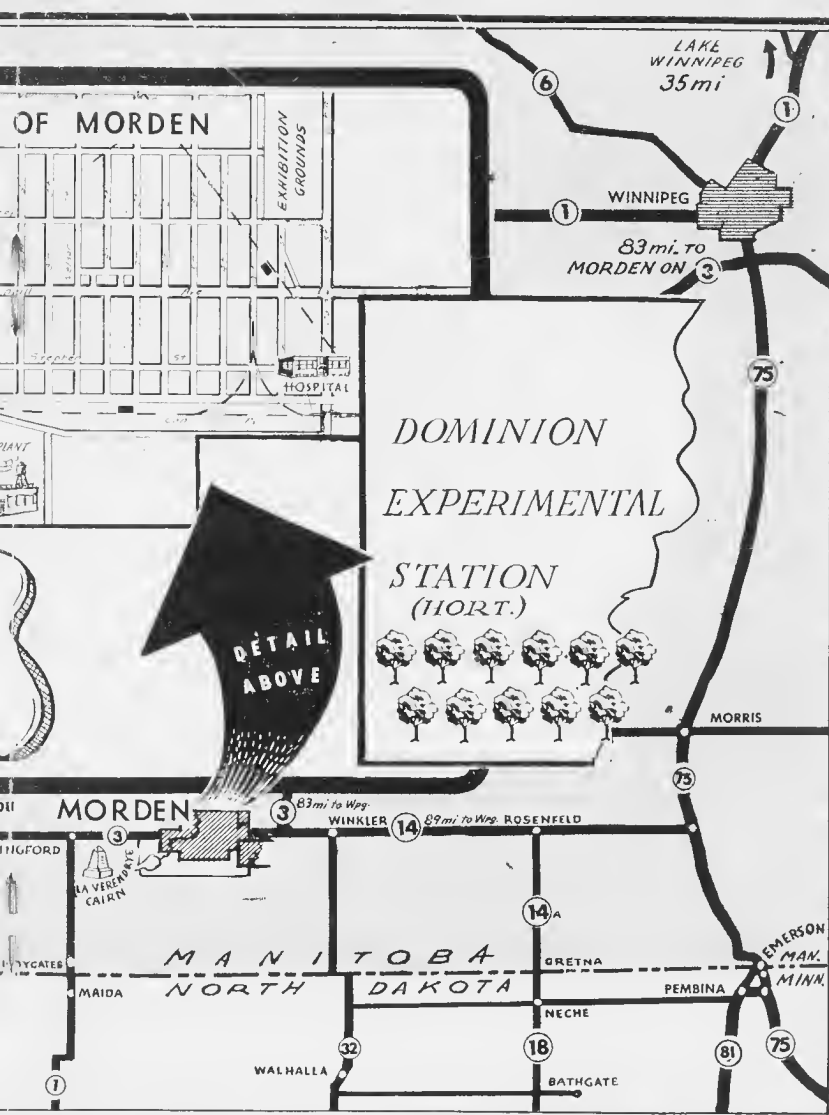
DARLINGHAM

SNOWFLAKE

HANNAH

SARLES

CALVIN





Aylmer Packing Plant

Morden's Recent Development

A combination of productive soil, favored climate, abundant water and hard-working people has made Morden one of the most thriving communities of western Canada. It's population now stands at 2,200--an increase of 20 per cent in five years.

Much of the town's recent development is the result of the conservation of run-off water in Lake Minnewasta. Construction of the Morden Dam by PFRA in 1941 has made possible a modern water and sewage disposal system, a large vegetable and canning factory and has created a delightful tourist resort. Irrigation of the many fruit and vegetable crops grown in the district is now being introduced.

In addition to being a centre of diversified agriculture, the Morden district is also the source of nearly all the bentonite clay produced in Manitoba. About four carloads a week are shipped to Winnipeg, the finished product being used in petroleum refining.

Recent additions to the town include paved streets, mercury vapor lighting, a ten-room high school, a home for the aged, and a fully modern, 56-bed hospital, opened in 1952. A training school for practical nurses is operated in conjunction with the hospital, while a new nurses' residence has been built adjacent to it.

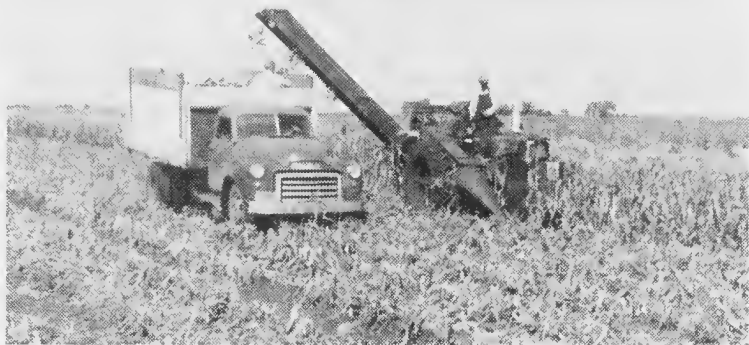


Morden's attractive, well-built theatre

Morden possesses both a drive-in theatre and one of the most modern and attractive indoor motion pictures in the province. Of fireproof construction, the Kenmore seats close to 400 people.



A Scenic Country Trail in the Morden District



Production of Special Crops

Production of special crops, such as corn and sunflowers, depends on a combination of economic, climatic and soil conditions not found in all parts of Manitoba. The Morden district is fortunate in possessing the desired combination of factors—highly fertile soil, relatively high temperatures and a long growing season.

In 1954, the total acreage sown to sunflowers, which have been grown for the past 12 years as an oil seed row crop, amounted to 14,000 acres. More than 12,500 acres were devoted to sugar beets and 10,000 to corn.

Production of other crops was: buckwheat, 8,000 acres; peas for soup, 4,000; wax beans, 375 tons; pole beans, 17 tons; and peas, 355 tons. New project for 1955 is the growing of ten acres of tomatoes for canning purposes.

At the same time, three nursery farms at Morden grow and sell substantial quantities of plant stock, with the emphasis on fruit trees.

With justification is the Morden district called “the Corn and Apple Belt” of the prairies!”

THE PEMBINA TRIANGLE

When God created all this earth
The seas and mountains tall
A little bit was left aside
The sweetest bit of all.
The shape of it was lovely
Just like a piece of pie
With rich and tasty filling
And pleasing to the eye
For many years it lay aside
Then one day if you please
He laid it with a gentle hand
In old Lake Agassiz.
The water was displaced of course
By that sweet earthy bundle
And now is known both far and wide
As the Pembina Triangle.
'Tis the garden of the prairie
And the pride of those who dwell
Upon its fruitful acres
And feel its magic spell.
The famous Town of Morden
Lies just alee the crust
It may be called the Capital
It merits well the trust.
The amenities and beauty
That mark this spot sublime
Are a wonder to the stranger
To the Exile heart a shrine.
The grass is always greener
The trees a brighter hue
The atmosphere is friendly
The smiles are brighter too.
You may want to see this world
Before you cross the Jordan
But you haven't seen this country
Until you've been to MORDEN.

— W. L. Jessiman.

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge contributions from the following:



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Light lunches, ice cream, tobaccos, cigarettes, confection-
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Specializing in Chinese Dishes

Steaks and Chops

Fish and Chips

Good meals served at all hours.

Yuen's Restaurant, Morden

BLUE JAY MOTEL

Fully Modern

Margaret Lewis

—

Phone 531, Morden

ARLINGTON HOTEL, PHONE 124

30 Rooms — Accommodation for Tourists — Meals

Breakfast 7:30-8:30; Lunch 12:00-1:30; Dinner 6:00-7:30

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"Your Place of Good Entertainment"

Wide Screen, Cinemascope and High Fidelity Sound.

Ernie Kendall, proprietor.

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$\frac{1}{2}$ mile west on No. 3 Highway

Lunch Counter — Kiddies Playground

Cinemascope Screen

—

Emil Smith, prop.

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NORTH STAR SERVICE

John C. Klassen, prop.

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Complete garage facilities. Open Monday through Sunday.

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Morden Lodge I.O.O.F., No. 9

No. 11 Morden Br. Can. Legion BESL. Fully equipped club room

NOTES

Back cover: aerial view of the Dominion Experimental Station
at Morden,

